UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The Franklin Street Presbyterian Church is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Franklin and Cathedral Streets, Baltimore, Maryland. The Franklin Street Presbyterian Church Parsonage is located directly north of the church on the west side of Cathedral Street.

Designed by the Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr., in 1844 and dedicated in 1847, the Church heralded a turning point of architectural taste in Baltimore and marked the maturation of Robert Cary Long, Jr., as an architect, who later became the distinguished Greek-Revival architect of Baltimore. The church is significant because an action taken by its congregation immediately after the Civil War led directly to the formation of the Presbytery of Maryland (known familiarly as the Southern Church) which is still in existence (January 1971).

Prior to 1844 only two churches in Baltimore had been constructed in the Gothic idiom: the small and secluded chapel of St. Mary's Seminary, built in 1807 by French emigre Maximilian Godefroy, and St. Alphonsus' Roman Catholic Church, in 1842, by Robert Cary Long, Jr. Both structures, however, had been commissioned by religious groups only recently arrived from Europe. The Sulpician fathers, of St. Mary's, came in 1795; the Redemptorists, builders of St. Alphonsus', in 1840. The architectural taste of those two groups cannot be said to have reflected that of the native population of Baltimore. Long, Jr.'s 1844 Tudor Gothic Revival design for the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church was a different case as it was approved and accepted as a church by a session composed of Baltimoreans, not Europeans. That it represented a shift of local taste away from the neo-classicism that had dominated Baltimore architecture since the commencement of Benjamin Henry Latrobe's Old Roman Catholic Cathedral (the Basilica of the Assumption) in 1808 can be demonstrated by noting that after the completion of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church no major ecclesiastical structure in Baltimore was built in the neoclassic style until the early twentieth century.

Because it is situated one block north of Latrobe's neoclassic cathedral, the Basilica, and one block west of Maximilian Godefroy's Roman-inspired Unitarian Church of 1817, the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church-within sight of both the others--allows a viewer to grasp the degree to which the introduction of Gothic revival styles redirected American church architecture in the middle of the nineteenth century in Baltimore.

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Check One or More as Appropr	riate)	
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☐ Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In American religious history the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church holds an important place as the founder of the Southern Presbyterian Church (1866).

The architect of the church, Robert Cary Long, Jr., 1810-1849, and of the parsonage, R. Snowden Andrews (1830-1903), were important mid-nineteenth-century Maryland architects.

The Franklin Street Presbyterian Church is significant part of the street scape of the City of Baltimore. The church is located in a section of the city which within a four block radius encompasses Benjamin Latrobe's Basilica, a National Register of Historic Places property; Mount Vernon Place which contains Robert Mills' monument to George Washington; Stanford White's (architect, New York) Jerome Mansion; Maximilian Godefroy's First Unitarian Church; the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Jacobs Mansion, Thomas Jenkins-Gladdings House. All of these buildings including the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, are located in what was an important residential section of Baltimore developed in the mid-nineteenth century. Political and social leaders of both the city and the state lived in this neighborhood.

Dr. Phoebe B. Stanton, an outstanding student and author of Gothic Revival architecture has attested to the architectural significance of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church in her book, The Gothic Revival of American Church Architecture An Episode in Tast 1840-1856 and in written correspondence. Her opinion is supported by Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr., Director of the Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore, in "Robert Cary Long, Jr., and the Battle of Styles," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XIV (March 1957), 28-30.

Talbot Hamlin (New York 1944, 1961) in <u>Greek Revival</u> Architecture in America called Robert Cary Long, Jr., the distinguished Greek Revival Architect of Baltimore.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Number all entries)

Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Historic American Buildings Survey

1958 Federal

Library of Congress code: 11 Washington, D. C.

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

1970 Local

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#7. DESCRIPTION continued

Robert Cary Long, Jr., was born in Baltimore in 1810, the son of a master carpenter who had himself achieved considerable local recognition as a designer of buildings. Unlike his father, Robert Cary Long, Jr. received formal training in architecture, studying in New York with Martin Euclid Thompson. It was not until 1833, at the death of his father, that he returned to Baltimore. His earliest buildings and designs in that city were in the "classical" and Egyptian modes. His first introduction to the Gothic style was St. Alphonsus', which can be seen more as an experiment than as a work displaying complete self-assurance. With the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, however, although he drew certain motives from works of Thomas Hope (specifically, An Historical Essay on Architecture) and A. W. Pugin (Specimens of Gothic Architecture), Long, Jr. revealed a mastery of the Gothic idiom and an understanding of its principles rather than a mere facility in the application of its decorative devices.

In 1866, 17 years after Long, Jr.'s death and one year after the end of the Civil War, the congregation of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of the Reverend J. J. Bullock, D.D., severed its connections with the Presbytery of Baltimore because of a dispute with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The dispute arose because the General Assembly, the governing body of the Presbyterian Church, required

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Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

its member congregations to give allegiance to the Federal government rather than to the governments of the various states. The result of the separation was the formation of the Presbytery of Maryland and the southern branch of American Presbyterianism, the Presbyterian Church, U. S.

The building is still (January 1971) used for worship and other religious purposes by the congregation of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church.

The architectural description of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church from the files of the Historic American Buildings Survey is on file at the Library of Congress. Excerpts of it are as follows:

Generally, the main part of the church is a rectangle with gabled roof. The front facing south has a large main entrance with double oak doors and nicely trimmed with stone, with pilasters each side, the door having a Tudorgothic arched head and a stone Gothic cornice between the door head and the main window. The church window is divided into five vertical sections with stone mullions ending in trefoils, the window head is a larger Tudorgothic arch trimmed in stone.

On each side of the main entrance is an octagonal belfry about ten feet in diameter. These belfries or towers are about 60 feet high and are topped by embattlements. The top sections have louvered windows with small windows on the front below.

On each side of the towers are secondary entrances, similar to the main entrance but smaller, with Tudor arches of stone and arched windows above. These windows are trimmed with moulded brick.

The front gable of the church has crenels and merlons running up the rake, and is contained by the towers, the side entrances being topped by horizontal parapets with embattlements, forming returns for the parapet at the sides of the building.

Both sides of the building have seven bays with stained glass windows between and buttresses dividing the bays.

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Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The parapets on each side are approximately 35 feet above the first floor and are enriched with embattlements, consisting of crenels and merlons, the crenels having copper flashing and a sort of false gutter behind.

The gabled roof is of tar and felt covering and probably has scissor trusses spanning the church, although only the bottom chord is visible on the interior.

The Church is set back from the street about 15 feet on both the front and side. The forecourt in the front is raised three steps from the street and the side is sunken to the basement level. The property is enclosed with a cast-iron, Gothic-Revival fence with octagonal granite posts; the tops of the railings have crestings and a trefoil design. Both the forecourt and the sunken court are paved with brick laid in a herringbone pattern. Due to the slope of Cathedral Street the rear of the Church is sufficiently above grade to allow basement entrances in the last bay.

The main doors of the church are of oak and the main floor is raised three steps from the forecourt. Steps are of granite.

The interior of the church consists of a front vestibule about 12 feet wide and two ante-rooms into which the two front secondary doors enter. The belfries have circular stairs leading down to the basement and upward to the choir loft and towers. Both the vestibule and ante-rooms lead into the nave of the church which is approximately 55 feet wide and without columns. The length of the nave is about 78 feet exclusive of the pulpit. Six of the stained glass windows on each side show in the nave; the seventh or front window shows in the anterooms.

The nave has oak paneling 4'-8" high, in Gothic design, with high oak panels about 9 feet high at both sides of the altar, which is recessed from the rear of the church and backed by a high oak screen, back-of the pulpit.

The ceiling of the nave is about 28 feet high at the side walls, sloping to a flat section in the center

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Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The bottom chord of of the church about 32 feet high. the trusses are exposed with knees trussed down at the buttresses and resting on brackets at the walls. These brackets rest on half round pilasters which in turn terminate on brackets about 6 feet above the floor. The trusses and decorative grilles are of wood, with all molding details in superimposed plaster.

The walls of the church, above the paneling, are of plaster, painted gray with painted joints simulating stone.

The church is lighted with suspended lanterns of iron and colored glass, one row of two fixtures to each bay.

The pews are of oak, the sides carved with poppy heads and finials.

The choir occupies a balcony over the front vestibule into which the main front window shows.

The basement of the church consists of a lobby at the foot of the stairs, with paneling to the ceiling and quarry tile floors, with rest rooms and a mechanical equipment room at the west side. The church has no boiler room as such, being heated by the district steam system.

The lobby leads into a parish hall, the full width of the church and about 50 feet long, ending in a stage at the north. Rooms flanking the stage are a kitchen at the west and an entrance lobby at the east, both with double doors to the outside.

The parish hall has a double row of wood-paneled columns, a plaster ceiling with lacunars or plaster panels, the ceiling being 9'-4" high. The floors are of wood parquet laid diagonally.

The foundation walls of the church are of stone below grade and brick above.

At the rear of the church, extending to Hamilton Street is a three story parish house, the full width of the church and about 30 feet deep. The design is similar

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Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

to the church, the windows topped with brick Tudor-Gothic arches.

In general, the property is well maintained, although there is some spalling of the stone work. The rough, pinkish brick was originally painted.

While discussing Robert Cary Long, Jr., and the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church in The Gothic Revival of American Church Architecture An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856, Dr. Phoebe B. Stanton points out the architectural sources of the church. Illustrations in Thomas Hope's An Historical Essay on Architecture guided Long, Jr.'s conception of the general aspect of the facade of the church. Two Pugin books, Specimens of Gothic Architecture and Examples of Gothic Architecture contained details that Long, Jr. incorporated into the Franklin Street Church. Dr. Stanton draws a parallel between the octagonal tower's and crenelated parapets of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and John Notman's Laurel Hill Cemetery Chapel (1837) in Philadelphia which was modeled after Hampton Court. The Ann Boelyn Gate at Hampton Court has been mentioned as the source for the southern facade of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church.

The Board of Trustees of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church enlarged the church in 1872. One bay was added at the north end of the church to accommodate additional pews. In 1911 the original painted exterior of the church was removed by sand blasting. Additional interior changes were made in 1888, 1902, 1911 and 1925-1926.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

The Franklin Street Presbyterian Church stands out in American religious heritage owing to the church's separation from the Presbytery of Baltimore, part of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. In 1866 the congregation of the Franklin Street Church led by their minister, the Reverend J. J. Bullock, D.D., severed its connection with the city and national organization because of those organizations' decision to require its members to swear allegiance to the United States of America. The Franklin Street congregation formed a separate

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Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

organization, the Presbytery of Maryland, which later became the Southern Presbyterian Church, U. S.

In 1844 a group of Baltimore Presbyterians led by the Reverend John C. Backus of the First (and at that time the only) Presbyterian Church, felt that Baltimore needed another Presbyterian church located in the expanding northern section of the city. This group without Reverend Backus left the First Presbyterian Church and founded the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church in the heart of this growing neighborhood on the corner of Franklin and Cathedral Streets. The First Presbyterian Church in 1853 followed the Franklin Street Church by moving north to a site on Madison and Park Avenue. This is an early example of the phenomenon of a church moving to follow the migration of its congregation out of the center of the city.

The first Board of Trustees of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church chose Robert Cary Long, Jr., (1810-1849) for the architect of their church. Son of a Baltimore architect of the same name, Long would have been known to the Board members as the designer of residences in the neighborhood of the church site, Charles Street and Mount Vernon Place. Long had earlier designed a city jail (1832), the gates for Greenmount Cemetery (1837) and a Gothic Revival Roman Catholic Church, St. Alphonsus (1842), a few blocks away. Long, architecturally ambidextrous, persuaded the Board to accept his Tudor-Gothic design instead of plans for a Greek revival church by stating that the classical style would be more costly to erect. This initial financial concern did not continue throughout the construction for the total cost of the church ran \$10,000 over the original estimate of \$28,000.

In 1857, ten years after the completion of the church, Colonel R. Snowden Andrews (1830-1903) had completed the parsonage of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church. 'The parsonage has Gothic Revival trim reflecting Robert Cary Long's church next door. Andrews, who had worked for the Baltimore architectural firm of Niernsee and Neilson was responsible for the Eastern Female High School (1862) and for the original Governor's Mansion on State Circle in Annapolis which was covered with a colonial revival facade in the twentieth century.

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Franklin Street Presbyterian Church and Parsonage

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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3.	PHOTO REFERENCE			
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	Preservation, 402 City Hall,			

Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, from southeast



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

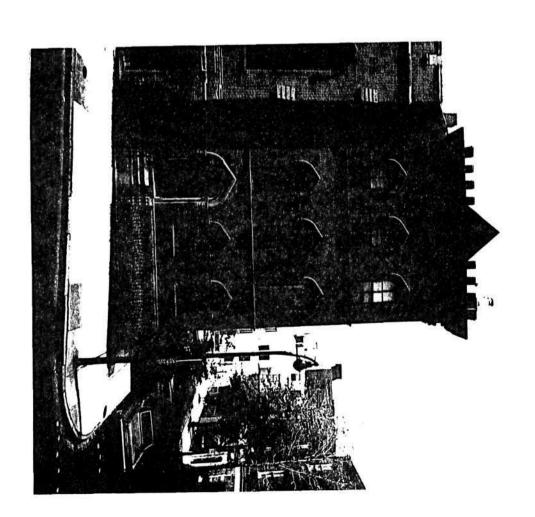
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE		
Maryland		
COUNTY		
Baltimore	Ci	Lty
FOR NPS USE	ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

common: Franklin Street F	Presbyterian Church and Parsonage	3
AND OR HISTORIC: Franklin Str	reet Presbyterian Church and Pars	sonage
2. LOCATION		
100 W. Franklin St. (c	church); 504 Cathedral St. (parso	onage)
CITY OR TOWN: Ballimore		•
51411.	CODE COURTY.	1 3 000
Maryland	24 Baltimore City	510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Baltimore Dep	partment of Planning, Filip Sible	ΣY
DATE OF PHOTO: . 1968		
	on for Historical and Architectur y Hall, Baltimore, Maryland	al
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

the east



Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968)

2. North arrow.

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

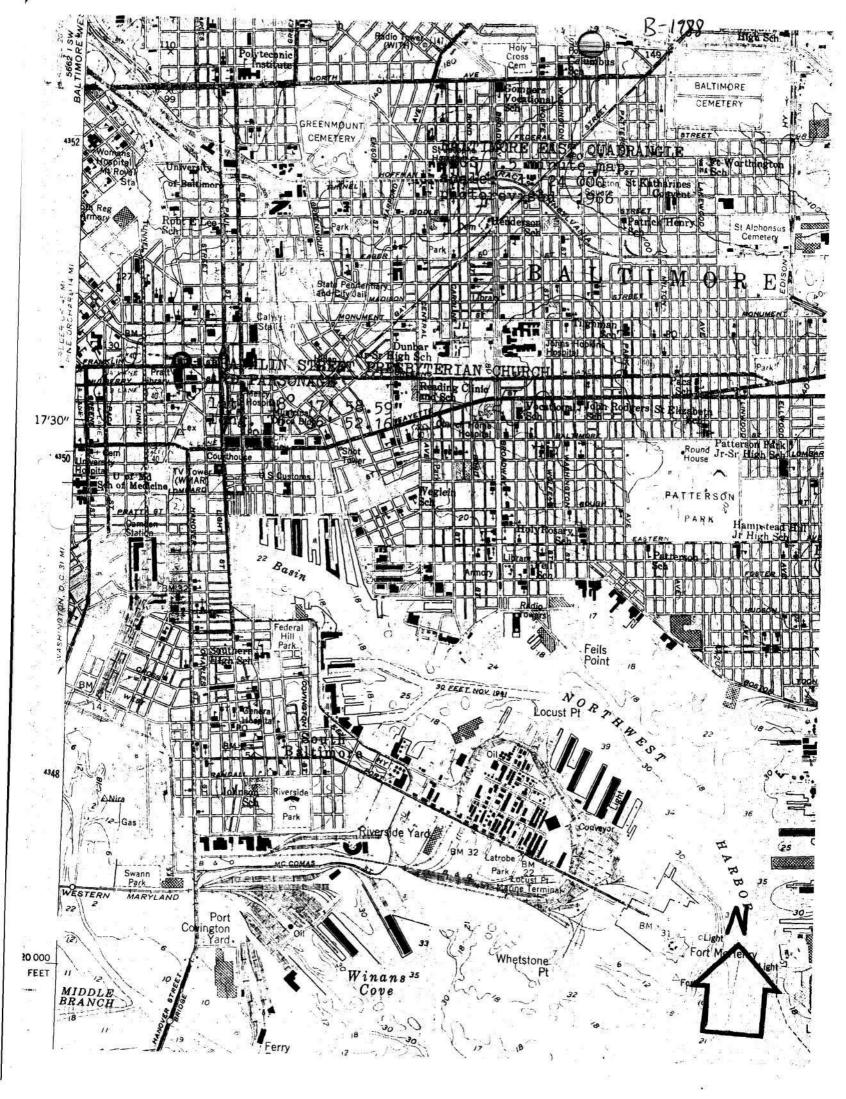
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
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Baltimore	City
FOR NPS USE O	
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			ch and Parsonage n Church and Pars	
2. LOCATION				
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Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland	24		altimore City	510
3. MAP REFERENCE	****			, J.
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute	map, Baltir	more Eas	st Quadrangle	
SCALE: 1: 24 000				
	. 1 1000			
DATE: 1953 photore	evised 1966			



BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

AREA: Cathedral Hill

B-1988

SURVEY NO.:

MAGI NO.: 0419882508

Address: 502 Cathedral Street

Current Name: New Psalmist Baptist Church Christian Center

Block: 550 Lot: 1 Lot size: 88 ft. x 140 ft.
Height: 3 Materials: Brick and stone
Condition: Good Owner: New Psalmist BaptistChurch
Accessible: Yes, restricted

Use: Religious Accessible: Yes, restrict Liber/Folio: GES 206/445

Historic Name: Franklin Street Presbyterian Church Rectory

Date: 1857

Architect/Builder: E. Snowden Andrews, arch.
Style (if appropriate): High Victorian Gothic

Description: A three-bay elevation with a center peak faces Cathedral Street. The side entry has a Gothic arched doorway with oak leaf capitals on unfluted flanking columns. A corbeled stone arch hood emphasizes the doorway. The rest of the facade has 2/2 windows with stone hoods duplicating the doorway arch. The flat muntins of the windows form a simple tracery pattern. Each floor has a stone string course at the sill level. In the center of the peak is a quatrefoil medallion. The wide cornice has corner pendant brackets and a fascia decorated with quatrefoils. Above the cornice is a crenellated parapet with stone coping. The Hamilton Street elevation formerly had three bays of windows, but these have been filled in with brick on the third floor and in one bay of the first and second floors. The openings have brick hood arches similar to the stone hoods of the main elevation.

Significance:

Area: architecture

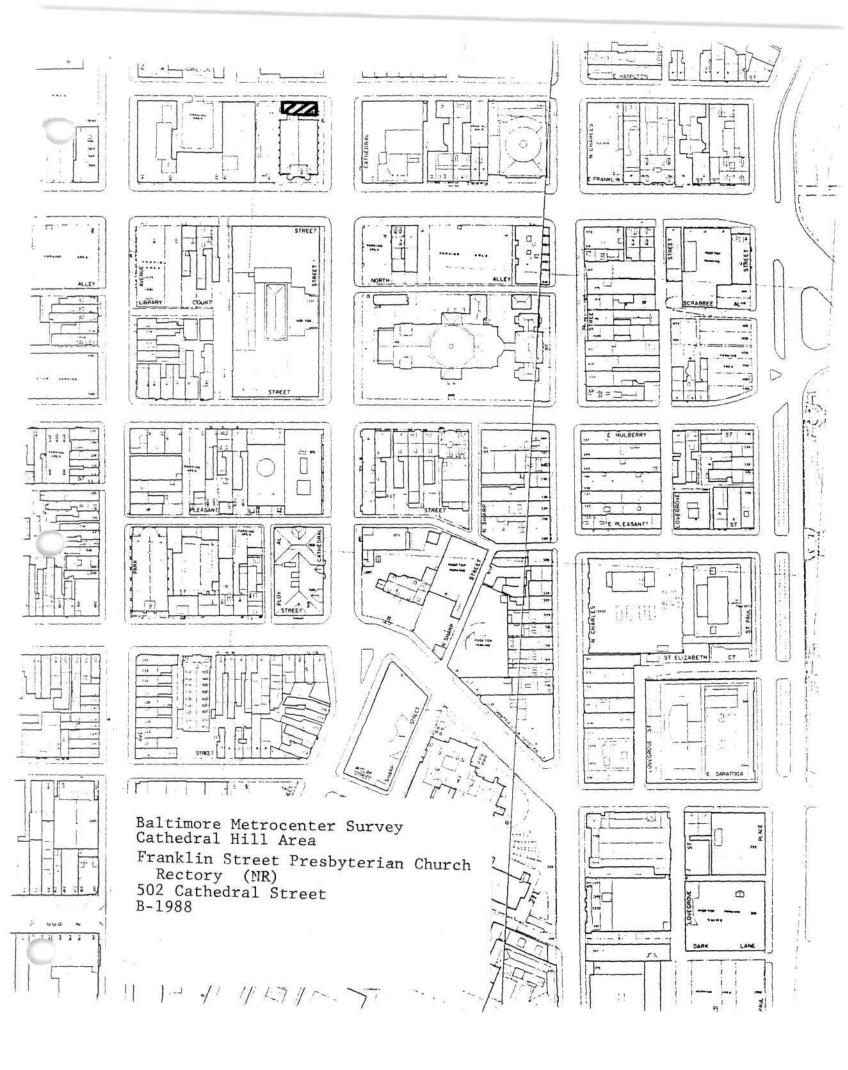
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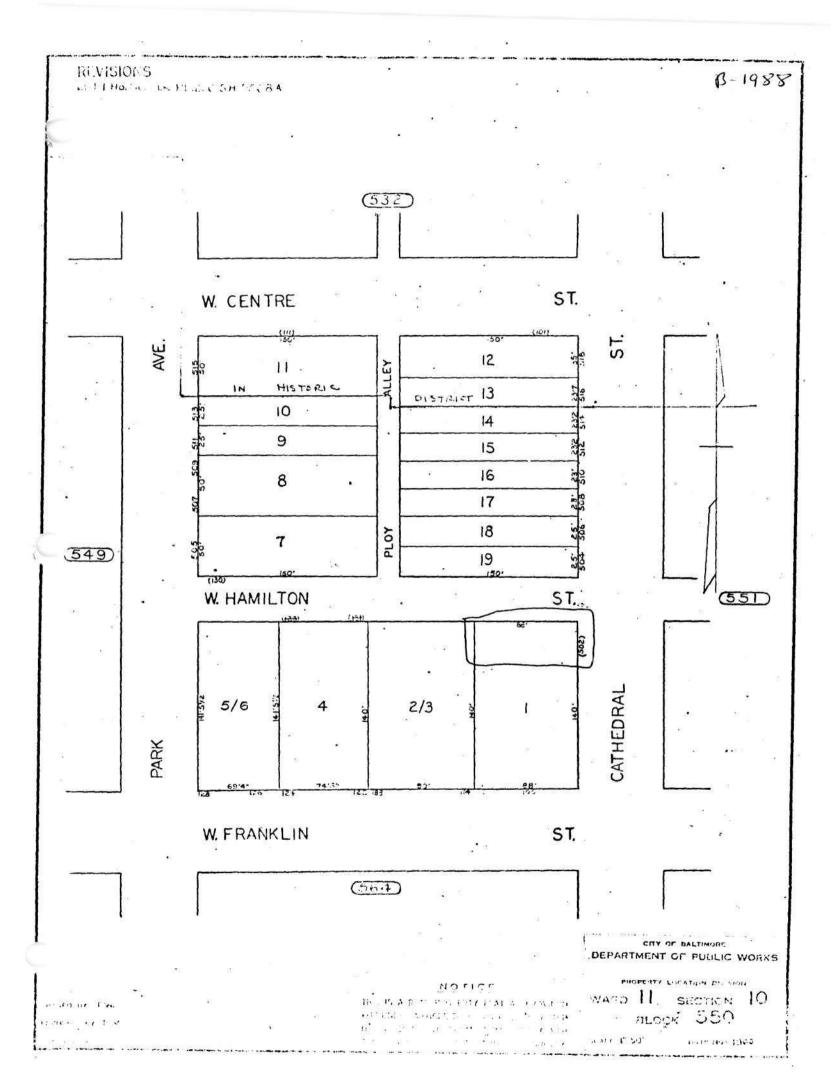
The former Franklin Street Presbyterian Church Rectory is an excellent High Victorian Gothic design. The stone and brick masonry is exceptional and in excellent condition. The building offers an interesting contrast with the Church (B-23) of two versions of the Gothic Revival style.

NOTE: The Rectory was formerly numbered B-23A. The current number B-1988 was formerly assigned to the Church, a duplication of the original number B-23. On consultation with MHT, B-1988 was reassigned to the Rectory. See both B-23 and B-1988 in MHT files for previous forms on the Church.

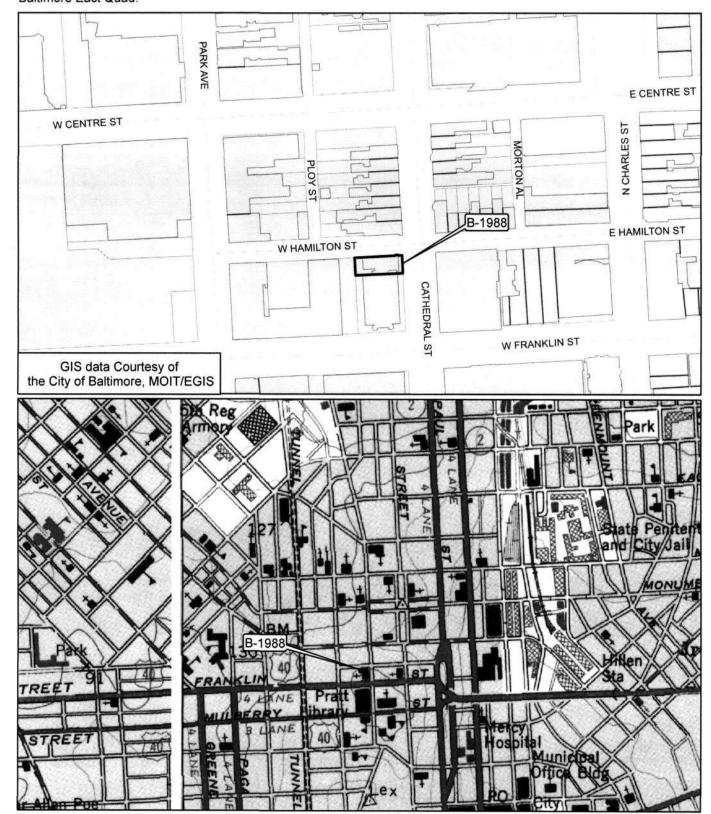
Sources: CHAP file

Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, April 1985





B-1988
Franklin Street Presbyterian Church Rectory
(New Psalmist Baptist Church Christian Center)
502 Cathedral Street
Block 0550, Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





Franklin Street Presbyterian Church Rectory B-1988 502 Cathedral Street Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey

Baltimore (City), Maryland Photo: Janet Davis

Date: May 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
East elevation